

## 110th Congress: 2007-2008

### Afghanistan

- S. 147 - Afghan Women Empowerment Act of 2007

### Bangladesh

- H Res 64-Journalism in Bangladesh

### China

- S.RES.633: A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the deterioration of respect for privacy and human rights in the People's Republic of China before the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

- H.RES.1334: Calling upon the Government of China to account for those detained during March 2008 protests and to recognize the fundamental human rights of all Tibetans, including monks, nuns, and innocent civilians, currently detained by the Government of China.

- H. Res. 821- Condemning Communist China's discrimination, harassment, imprisonment, torture, and execution of its prisoners of conscience

### Egypt

- H.Res.1303: Calling on the Egyptian Government to respect human rights and freedoms of religion and expression in Egypt

## Iran

- H.Res.1310: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Iran's lack of protection for internationally recognized human rights creates poor conditions for religious freedom in the Islamic Republic of Iran

## Iraq

- H.R.6496: Iraqi Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Security Act of 2008

- H.Res. 6328: To develop a policy to address the critical needs of Iraqi refugees

## Pakistan

- H. Res 840 Calling for the Restoration of Human Rights and Rule of Law in Pakistan

## Saudi Arabia

- H. CON. RES. 202 Noting the absence of human rights as a topic of discussion in the U.S.-Saudi Strategic Dialogue between the United States and Saudi Arabia, and urging the President to include this subject in working level discussions with Saudi counterparts
- H.R. 2986-Prohibit Aid to Saudi Arabia Act of 2007
- H. Con. Res. 194-Education Reform in Saudi Arabia
- H.R. 2976-Saudi Arabia Accountability Act of 2007
- H. Con. Res 262- Expressing the sense of Congress regarding Saudi Arabia's policies relating to religious practice and tolerance, including Saudi Arabia's commitment to revise Saudi textbooks to remove intolerant and violent references
- S. 2243 - A bill to strongly encourage the Government of Saudi Arabia to end its support for institutions that fund, train, incite, encourage, or in any other way aid and abet terrorism, to secure full Saudi cooperation in the investigation of terrorist incidents, to denounce Saudi sponsorship of extremist Wahhabi ideology, and for other purposes

## Sri Lanka

- H.RES.1338 : Calling on the United States Government and the international community to support a transition to sustainable peace in Sri Lanka by encouraging an international human rights monitoring presence, protecting the work of civil society and media, facilitating access of humanitarian operations, and retaining democratic principles in which rule of law and justice pervades.

## Sudan

- H.R.6416:

## Just and Lasting Peace in Sudan Act 2008

- H.Res.1290: Joining the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in observance of World Refugee Day and calling on the United States Government, international organizations, and aid groups to take immediate steps to secure urgently needed humanitarian relief for the more than 2,000,000 people displaced by genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan

## Syria

- H.RES.1398:  
Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continued gross violations of political, civil, and human rights of the Syrian people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, calling on the Government of Syria to immediately and unconditionally release prisoners of conscience and other political prisoners, and for other purposes.

## Turkey

- S.Res.615:  
A resolution urging the Government of Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Orthodox Christian Church.

## Vietnam

- H. Res. 665-Endorsing reforms for freedom and democracy in Vietnam

-  
H.R.4223- To establish the Congressional-Executive Commission on the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

To establish the Congressional-Executive Commission on the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

- H.RES.1048: Condemning the detention of Dr. Nguyen Quoc

Quan, a citizen of the United States, by the Government of Vietnam and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should remove permanent normal trade relations status with Vietnam unless Dr. Nguyen is released

- H.Res.506-Human Rights and Trade

- H.R. 3096-Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007

## Appropriations

- H.R. 2764 - FY 2008 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations

- H.R.1591- Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes

## Legislation Referencing USCIRF Recommendations

- H. R. 982- Advance Democracy Act

- H.R. 1645-STRIVE ACT

- H. R. 2265-Responsibility to Iraqi Refugees Act

## ----- Afghanistan

S. 147 - Afghan Women Empowerment Act of 2007

The legislation seeks to give women in Afghanistan basic human rights and freedoms, such as the

right to work, health care and education, that they have been denied under the resurgent Taliban regime. As Afghan women are often the victims of religious extremists, in order to ensure the protection of their civil liberties, the legislation I finds that nongovernmental organizations should be enhanced and the Government of Afghanistan should honor its commitments under the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights and other international compacts. The legislation expresses the sense of Congress that a stable and participatory democracy depends upon the reestablishment of rights for Afghan women and girls. Congress feels that US support for the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission -- which were created to correct past human rights abuses -- will aid to secure institutions and arrangements that guarantee human rights. The legislation cites USCIRF with the following language: (6) According to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, the absence of clear protections for the right to freedom of religion or belief for individual Afghan citizens has resulted in a growing number of criminal prosecutions and other official actions against individuals, including women, for exercising their basic rights. Finally, the legislation states that reconstruction and other development assistance funds should be prioritized to women led NGOs and businesses. The legislation calls on the Government of Afghanistan to adhere to internationally understood rights of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief when administering those funds.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:s147is.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:s147is.txt.pdf)

## Bangladesh

H Res 64-Journalism in Bangladesh: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Bangladesh should immediately drop all pending charges against Bangladeshi journalist Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury.

The legislation supports Mr. Choudhury who currently faces charges of sedition in Bangladesh for promoting interfaith dialogue between Muslims and Jews and his criticism of extremism. With the following language, the legislation cites USCIRF: Whereas members of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom visited with Mr. Choudhury on their trip to Bangladesh in February and March 2006; The legislation further references USCIRF with the following language: Whereas on October 6, 2006, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom wrote a letter to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard A. Boucher calling on the United States Government to strengthen the 'voices of moderation' in countries like Bangladesh where the rule of law, democratic institutions, and respect for human rights are under assault by violent extremists; the Commission identified Mr. Choudhury as one of those voices that should not be silenced. The legislation calls on the government of Bangladesh to drop all charges against Mr. Choudhury and to stop its stifling of opposing voices with

intimidation and acts of violence.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hr64eh.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hr64eh.txt.pdf)

China

#### S.RES.633:

A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the deterioration of respect for privacy and human rights in the People's Republic of China before the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

This resolution recognizes that the United States Department of State's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices on People's Republic of China shows that in 2007 the Government of the People's Republic of China 'tightened restrictions on freedom of speech and the press, particularly in anticipation of and during sensitive events, including increased efforts to control and censor the Internet', 'monitored telephone conversations, facsimile transmissions, e-mail, text messaging, and Internet communications.' Amnesty International released a report entitled 'People's Republic of China: The Olympics Countdown--Broken Promises', which finds, regarding the promises of the Government of the People's Republic of China to the International Olympic Committee in 2001, '[T]here has been no progress towards fulfilling these promises, only continued deterioration. . . . In fact, the crackdown on human rights defenders, journalists and lawyers has intensified because Beijing is hosting the Olympics.' It is resolved that the Senate calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to rescind the order requiring hotels to allow the Public Security Bureau to install hardware and software on the hotel networks; refrain from targeting, on the basis of information collected from Internet monitoring, any individual who visits websites related to politics or human rights or who expresses opinions related to politics or human rights in electronic communication; expresses grave concern regarding the deterioration of respect for human rights in the People's Republic of China leading up to the Beijing Olympics; notes that the behavior of the Government of the People's Republic of China violates several international conventions to which the country is a signatory, violates the Government's commitments to the International Olympic Committee, and is contrary to longstanding Olympic tradition and spirit; and remains concerned for the safety and privacy of international visitors and journalists traveling to the People's Republic of China for the Beijing Olympics, in particular visitors and journalists involved in documenting human rights abuses and promoting human rights improvements.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:sr633is.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:sr633is.txt.pdf)

**H.RES.1334:**

Calling upon the Government of China to account for those detained during March 2008 protests and to recognize the fundamental human rights of all Tibetans, including monks, nuns, and innocent civilians, currently detained by the Government of China.

This resolution recognizes that thousands of protestors, including Buddhists monks, nuns, and other civilians, have been arbitrarily detained without due process since March 2008. Approximately 1,000 of those protestors remain unaccounted for by the Government of China, eyewitnesses describe beatings in prison, as well as a lack of food and necessary medical care, and detaining and mistreating detainees violates international standards, including those of the international convention on civil and political rights. It is resolved that the House of Representatives calls on Chinese officials to immediately account for the status of the detained individuals, including their names, location, and current medical conditions; allow international observers to visit detention facilities and the Tibet Autonomous Region to ensure that the rights of those being detained and the Tibetan people as a whole are being recognized; immediately release or file and make public formal criminal charges against the detained individuals; and adhere to international standards of due process and justice, including proceedings before an independent judiciary, when bringing to trial those charged with formal offenses.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hr1334ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hr1334ih.txt.pdf)

H. Res. 821- Condemning Communist China's discrimination, harassment, imprisonment, torture, and execution of its prisoners of conscience.

With the following language the legislation cites USCIRF: Whereas according to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom's ('USCIRF') 2007 Annual Report, 'All religious groups in China face some restrictions, monitoring, and surveillance, ... and religious freedom conditions deteriorated for communities not affiliated with one of the 7 government-approved religious organizations, ... and those closely associated with ethnic minority groups. Religious communities particularly targeted include ... 'underground' Roman Catholics, 'house church' Protestants, and various spiritual movements such as Falun Gon.

The bill further references

USCIRF with the following language: Whereas according to the USCIRF 2007 Annual Report, in Communist China, 'There continue to be reports that prominent religious leaders and laypersons alike are confined, tortured, 'disappeared', imprisoned, or subjected to other forms of ill treatment on account of their religion or belief'. The legislation finds that many religious leaders throughout China have been detained, imprisoned and tortured by the Communist Chinese



Government. The House resolves to condemn China's discrimination, harassment, imprisonment and torture of its prisoners. The House calls upon China to cease discrimination against unregistered religious organizations and to release all of its prisoners of conscience. Finally the legislation calls upon Communist China to release information regarding prisoners and past executions, and with the following language mentions USCIRF: (5) calls upon Communist China to allow the USCIRF or international humanitarian organizations unrestricted access to current and former prisoners of conscience held in Communist China's jails, prison, administrative detention centers, and Laogai prison camp system; and.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hr821ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hr821ih.txt.pdf)

## Egypt

H.Res.1303: Calling  
on the Egyptian Government to respect human rights and freedoms of religion and expression in Egypt.

This resolution recognizes that Shiites, Koranists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and other religious minorities are harassed, arrested, and imprisoned by security services; all Baha'i institutions and community activities have been banned in Egypt since 1960, and members of the Baha'i faith are denied government required identification cards solely due to their religious affiliation; material vilifying Jews appears regularly in the state controlled and semi official media; Copts, Egypt's largest religious minority group and the largest Christian population in the Middle East, suffer from many forms of discrimination; and the recent arrests and action against nongovernmental organizations and human rights defenders undermines the commitments entered into by the Egyptian Government concerning fundamental rights and freedoms and the democratic process in the country. It is resolved that the House of Representatives recognizes that respect for human rights is a fundamental value, and the bilateral relationship between the United States and Egypt should be a platform for promoting the rule of law and fundamental freedoms; calls on the Egyptian Government to end all forms of harassment and to take the steps necessary to fully implement and protect the rights of religious minorities as full citizens; calls on the Egyptian Government for the immediate release of Ayman Nour, in light of reports of his deteriorating state of health, and calls for an immediate welfare visit, including a visit by qualified medical personnel; the release of all political prisoners and other activists; and urges the President and the Secretary of State to put human rights and religious freedom developments in Egypt very high on the United States Government's agenda during meetings with Egyptian officials.

[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/t2GPO/http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hr1303ih.txt.pdf](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/t2GPO/http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hr1303ih.txt.pdf)

## Iran

### H.Res.1310:

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Iran's lack of protection for internationally recognized human rights creates poor conditions for religious freedom in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Every year since 1999, the Department of State, following findings and recommendations of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, has designated Iran a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC) under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 for the systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom. Iran is guilty of serious human rights violations of various minorities including women, Baha'is, Sufi Muslims, Evangelical Christians, and Jews such as unlawful harassment, detention, arrests, imprisonment, denial of the right to education, freedoms of movement, association, thought, and conscience. In its current state, the draft penal code is not consistent with the Government of Iran's international obligations and therefore should not enter into force, and if this draft penal code is passed, it would seriously endanger the lives of all Baha'is, Muslim dissidents, and converts from Islam. It is resolved that the House of Representatives calls on the Government of Iran to release all religious prisoners and to modify the draft penal code in order to respect the obligations under the international human rights conventions to which the Government of Iran is a party. The House calls on the U.N. Human rights Council to maintain careful oversight of human rights conditions in Iran, and supports the allocation of adequate funding for the promotion of democracy and human rights in the region, including initiatives to advance freedom of religion and promote the rule of law on behalf of religious minorities.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hr1310ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hr1310ih.txt.pdf)

## Iraq

### H.R.6496: Iraqi

Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Security Act of 2008

(To address the impending humanitarian crisis and potential security breakdown as a result of the mass influx of Iraqi refugees into neighboring countries, and the growing internally displaced population in Iraq, by increasing directed accountable assistance to these populations and their host countries, facilitating the resettlement of Iraqis at risk, and for other purposes.)

This bill recognizes that Iraqi refugees and IDPs will have an impact on the security of the region and the short- and long-term effects of their displacement must be considered within overall United States Iraq policy and be addressed at the highest levels of Government; it is in the United States' humanitarian and national interests to demonstrate its commitment to resettle Iraqi refugees and IDPs and to work with other governments, including the member states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to encourage them to do the same; and the United States should express its gratitude and support to host countries for providing humanitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees, as well as to those countries that have already resettled Iraqi refugees. The policies of the United States shall be to lead an initiative to provide for the relief of vulnerable populations in Iraq, including IDPs, and Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries and to take the lead in funding assistance requests from the UNHCR, other humanitarian agencies, and international organizations by funding at levels well above the traditional United States share, and to assist in the resettlement of Iraqi refugees; develop immediately a long-term comprehensive strategy for Iraq in coordination with the Government of Iraq and host countries, the United Nations, and nongovernmental organizations to meet the humanitarian and security needs of Iraqi refugees and IDPs and to establish within the Executive Office of the President a Special Coordinator for Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons to ensure expeditious and effective implementation of such a strategy; work with the Government of Iraq, the United Nations, and nongovernmental organizations to help the Government of Iraq improve its capacity and ability to provide relief for IDPs and other vulnerable populations in all communities throughout Iraq and to provide assistance to Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries; and commit to working with international partners, including the United Nations, donor countries, international financial institutions, international and indigenous nongovernmental organizations, and other international organizations to assist in providing for the emergency, medium-, and long-term humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations in Iraq, including IDPs, and Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h6496ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h6496ih.txt.pdf)

H.Res. 6328: To develop a policy to address the critical needs of Iraqi refugees

This resolution establishes in the Executive Office of the President the position of White House Coordinator for Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons who shall: (1) develop and implement U.S. policies, and coordinate federal functions, to address the protection, resettlement, and assistance needs of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons; (2) monitor the development and implementation of assistance strategies to countries in the Middle East hosting Iraqi refugees; (3) ensure that the President's budget requests to Congress are sufficient to meet the needs of such persons, including providing assistance for international efforts on behalf of such persons; (4) serve as principal liaison with the government of Iraq and the international community and organizations that are assisting such persons; and (5) ensure that the U.S. government will encourage refugee returns

only when conditions permit safe and voluntary returns.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h6328ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h6328ih.txt.pdf)

## Pakistan

### H. Res 840 Calling for the Restoration of Human Rights and Rule of Law in Pakistan.

The legislation calls for an end to the suspension of the Pakistani Constitution and Supreme Court and the detention of prominent human rights defenders. Such actions have placed religious freedom, human rights and the advancement of democracy in Pakistan in grave danger. With the following language, the legislation cites USCIRF: Whereas according to recommendations by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, the Government of Pakistan needs to take much more serious efforts to combat Islamic extremism in that country, noting especially the current government's political alliance with Islamist political parties, which affords an inordinate amount of influence to these groups, and which, in turn, has had a strong negative impact on religious freedom in Pakistan. The legislation expresses the sense of the House that the government of Pakistan should immediately restore the rule of law, drop the charges against all human rights defenders and release those who have been detained or placed under house arrest. In order to ensure freedom of speech the government of Pakistan should restore independence to the media. In addition, the government of Pakistan should review all legislation to ensure respect for the international human rights, which Pakistan committed to uphold as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hr840ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hr840ih.txt.pdf)

## Saudi Arabia

H. CON. RES. 202 Noting the absence of human rights as a topic of discussion in the U.S.-Saudi Strategic Dialogue between the United States and Saudi Arabia, and urging the President to include this subject in working level discussions with Saudi counterparts.

The legislation

notes the absence of a discussion of human rights in the U.S.-Saudi Strategic Dialogue despite the fact that the United States Department of State's Human Rights Report on Saudi Arabia in 2007 found severe human rights abuses, including the infliction of severe pain by judicially-sanctioned corporal punishments; arbitrary arrest and detention; denial of fair public trials; exemption from the rule of law and lack of judicial independence; arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, and correspondence; significant restriction of civil liberties such as freedoms of speech and press, including the Internet; assembly; association and movement, and minimal political rights, including the right to peacefully change the government. In addition, Freedom House has rated Saudi Arabia as a 'Not Free' country for the past 34 years, and has consistently cited it as one of the 8 worst regimes in the world for its severe restrictions on civil liberties and political rights, including a ban on political parties, tight government control over domestic media outlets, absence of religious freedom, academic freedom, or judicial independence and widespread discrimination against women. The legislation cites USCIRF with the following language: Whereas the United States Commission on

International Religious Freedom listed

Saudi Arabia as a 'Country of Particular Concern' in its 2007 report because there is no legal recognition or protection of religious freedom, it is severely restricted in practice; the government limits the practice of all but the officially sanctioned version of Islam and prohibits the public practice of other religions, including non-Muslim religions and Shi'a and Sufi sect "

The legislation calls upon the President and the Secretary of State to expand the Strategic Dialogue and establish a new working group to address human rights.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hc202ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hc202ih.txt.pdf)

H.R. 2986-Prohibit Aid to Saudi Arabia Act of 2007

The legislation

cites USCIRF with the following language:

(11)

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has reported that Saudi Arabian Government-funded textbooks used both in Saudi Arabia and also in North American Islamic schools and mosques have been found to encourage incitement to violence against non-Muslims. Additionally, the legislation prohibits funds appropriated for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs to be obligated or expended

for Saudi Arabia. This includes direct loans, credits, insurance, and guarantees of the US Export-Import Bank.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h2986ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h2986ih.txt.pdf)

#### H. Con. Res. 194-Education Reform in Saudi Arabia

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the failure of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Palestinian Authority to properly implement education reforms aimed at reducing the cultural roots of terrorism.

The legislation cites USIRF with the following language:

Whereas

the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has reported that Saudi Arabian Government-funded textbooks used both in Saudi Arabia and also in North American Islamic schools and mosques have been found to encourage incitement to violence against non-Muslims;

The legislation expresses the disappointment of Congress with the slow pace of education reform in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the sense that continual delay of reform implementations should not be accepted. The legislation

urges Saudi Arabia to reform

its textbooks and educational curriculum in a manner that promotes tolerance and peaceful coexistence with others, develops civil society, encourage functionality in the global economy; and immediately reform the curriculum which Saudi embassies are distributing internationally, specifically the textbooks distributed to Saudi schools, including those within the US.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hc194ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hc194ih.txt.pdf)

#### H.R. 2976-Saudi Arabia Accountability Act of 2007

To halt Saudi support for institutions that fund, train, incite, encourage, or in any other way aid and abet terrorism, and to secure full Saudi cooperation in the investigation of terrorist incidents, and for other purposes.

The legislation

cites USCIRF with the following language: (12) The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has reported that Saudi Arabian Government-funded textbooks used both in Saudi Arabia and also in North American Islamic schools and mosques have been found to encourage incitement to violence against non-Muslims. This legislation expresses the sense of Congress that the government of Saudi Arabia must cooperate fully with the US in the investigation of terror groups and individuals; close permanently all organizations in Saudi Arabia that fund, train, encourage, or in any way aid terrorism anywhere in the world; end funding for terror organizations outside Saudi Arabia; and block funding from private Saudi citizens and entities to Saudi based or offshore terror organizations. Furthermore, the legislation calls upon the President to prohibit certain exports to Saudi Arabia and to restrict travel of certain Saudi diplomats if the President cannot certify to the appropriate congressional committees that the government of Saudi Arabia is fully cooperating with the United States in investigating and preventing terrorist attacks; has closed permanently all Saudi-based terror organizations; has ended funding for any offshore terror organization; and has made all efforts to block funding from private Saudi citizens and entities to offshore terror organizations.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h2976ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h2976ih.txt.pdf)

H. Con. Res 262- Expressing the sense of Congress regarding Saudi Arabia's policies relating to religious practice and tolerance, including Saudi Arabia's commitment to revise Saudi textbooks to remove intolerant and violent references.

This legislation expresses the Congress's concern over Saudi Arabia's policies on religious freedom and tolerance, particularly Saudi textbooks that encourage intolerance and violence towards non-Muslims or hatred towards other religious groups. As a result of bilateral discussions in 2006, the Saudi government confirmed that it was 'pursuing and will continue to pursue [policies] for the purpose of promoting greater freedom for religious practice and increased tolerance for religious groups'. However, the extent of these efforts was questioned by Commissioners who traveled to Saudi Arabia.

The legislation references this USCIRF trip with the following language: Whereas members of United States Commission on

International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) traveled to Saudi Arabia in May and June of 2007, and found that the Government of Saudi Arabia has made insubstantial progress toward implementing its July 2006 policies relating to religious practice and tolerance, and has not been transparent in the implementation of such policies; The legislation further cites USCIRF findings with the following language: Whereas USCIRF found that the Government of Saudi Arabia permits the public practice of only one interpretation of Islam in Saudi Arabia and requires public behavior to conform to this interpretation, thereby

violating standards of universal human rights and resulting in discrimination and human rights violations against members of indigenous Muslim communities who follow other interpretations of Islam, such as Shi'as, Ismailis, and nonconforming Sunnis. Since the Saudi government has failed to provide Congress and Secretary of State with a complete set of current texts books for review or its content, with the following language the legislation cites the USCIRF recommendation: Whereas USCIRF has recommended that the Secretary of State open diplomatic talks with the Government of Saudi Arabia in order to obtain official Saudi textbooks used at the ISA; and The legislation further mentions the USCIRF recommendation with the following language: Whereas USCIRF recommends that the ISA should be closed until the official Saudi textbooks used at the ISA are made available for comprehensive public examination and are found to be consistent with the Government of Saudi Arabia's commitment to revise such textbooks to remove intolerant and violent references: Now, therefore, be it It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should provide a report within 90 days of the discussions detailing the results. If the textbooks are obtained and violent information is found, the report should explain what steps the Secretary plans to take in response. And if the textbooks are not obtained, the report should explain what actions the Secretary plans to take to close down the ISA on the grounds that significant concern still remains on whether intolerance and violence is being taught at the ISA which have an adverse effect on the security of the United States.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hc262ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hc262ih.txt.pdf)

#### S. 2243 - A

bill to strongly encourage the Government of Saudi Arabia to end its support for institutions that fund, train, incite, encourage, or in any other way aid and abet terrorism, to secure full Saudi cooperation in the investigation of terrorist incidents, to denounce Saudi sponsorship of extremist Wahhabi ideology, and for other purposes.

The legislation strongly encourages the Government of Saudi Arabia to end its support for institutions that fund, train, incite, encourage, or in any other way aid and abet terrorism, to secure full Saudi cooperation in the investigation of terrorist incidents, and to denounce Saudi sponsorship of extremist Wahhabi ideology The legislation cites the USCIRF findings with the following language: 7) A Fall 2007 United States Commission on International Religious Freedom report stated 'Due to insufficient information provided by the Saudi government, the Commission could not verify that a formal mechanism exists within the Saudi government to review thoroughly and revise educational texts and other materials sent outside of Saudi Arabia. It appears that the Saudi government has made little or no progress on efforts to halt the exportation of extremist ideology outside the Kingdom.'. The legislation calls on the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to permanently close all charities, schools, or other organizations or institutions that fund, train, incite, encourage, or in any other way aid and abet terrorism anywhere in the world. The legislation also calls on the Government of Saudi Arabia to provide complete, unrestricted, and unobstructed cooperation to the United States, The legislation requires that a report be submitted no later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, which would describe the progress made by the



Government of Saudi Arabia.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:s2243is.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:s2243is.txt.pdf)

Sri Lanka

#### H.RES.1338 : Calling on the United States

Government and the international community to support a transition to sustainable peace in Sri Lanka by encouraging an international human rights monitoring presence, protecting the work of civil society and media, facilitating access of humanitarian operations, and retaining democratic principles in which rule of law and justice pervades.

This resolution recognizes that

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has been responsible for reprehensible acts of violence against civilians of all ethnicities and that the Government of Sri Lanka has pursued a military solution to the conflict. This has led to increased numbers of disappearances and been used to justify severe restrictions on humanitarian aid workers which have severely undermined the chances of a renewed peace process, and neither the Government of Sri Lanka nor the LTTE are actively engaged in pursuing a political solution to the conflict. The Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP), a paramilitary group now formally allied with the Government of Sri Lanka, and the LTTE have been documented to use and recruit child soldiers and numerous other human rights violations continue to be reported, including extrajudicial killings, shelling and bombing of civilian areas, unnecessary prevention of the delivery of humanitarian aid, undue restrictions on the freedom of movement of internally displaced persons. It is resolved that the House of Representatives urges the LTTE and the TMVP to immediately end all recruitment of children as soldiers and to release all child soldiers currently in their ranks; urges the Government of Sri Lanka to pursue a political resolution, rather than a military solution, to the conflict; calls upon the President to publicly urge Sri Lanka to accept an international human rights monitoring presence on the island, which would deter, monitor, investigate, and report attacks; and supports United States efforts to work with the Government of Sri Lanka, other relevant stakeholders to the conflict, and the international community to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, hold accountable violators of human rights and international humanitarian law, and promote conditions for a lasting peace through political dialogue that respects the rights of all ethnic and religious groups in Sri Lanka.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hr1338ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hr1338ih.txt.pdf)

## Sudan

H.R.6416: Just and Lasting Peace in Sudan Act 2008: To codify existing sanctions against the Government of Sudan until the Government of Sudan meets certain conditions relating to a just and lasting peace in Sudan.

This bill recognizes that the atrocities in the Darfur region of Sudan as genocide. The Government of Sudan continues to commit atrocities against innocent civilians in Darfur and have consistently failed to honor the peace agreements it has signed. The sanctions against the Government of Sudan that were imposed pursuant to any provision of law, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, including sanctions against the Government of Sudan that were imposed pursuant to any executive order or other administrative action, shall remain in effect against the Government of Sudan and shall not be lifted pursuant to such provisions of law until the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the Government of Sudan has met the necessary conditions for a period of not less than one year.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h6416ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h6416ih.txt.pdf)

### H.Res.1290:

Joining the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in observance of World Refugee Day and calling on the United States Government, international organizations, and aid groups to take immediate steps to secure urgently needed humanitarian relief for the more than 2,000,000 people displaced by genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan

The resolution acknowledges that a significant number of those displaced by the conflict in Darfur, of which 70-80% are women and children, are unable to remain in encampments due to critical medical or security concerns and are in dire need of resettlement. The U.S. has resettled over 2,600,000 refugees since 1975, and over 160,000 in the last 5 years, but only 5 Darfuris have been offered refuge by the U.S. during the 5-year genocide. The United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) that was deployed pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1769 (2007) to prevent armed attacks and protect civilians has proven understaffed, underfunded, and consequently unprepared, and the \$48,000,000 budget shortfall at the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) has forced WFP, as of June 10, 2008, to curtail flights for aid workers in Sudan due to funding shortfalls for the Humanitarian Aid Service, and threatens to substantially limit food aid to the 4,500,000 people in Darfur and surrounding areas who currently rely on it. Nonetheless, the U.S. is the largest bilateral donor to Sudan and has provided more than \$3,000,000,000 for humanitarian programs in Sudan and eastern Chad since fiscal year 2004, and it is resolved that this resolution calls on the Department of State and the President to continue to work with the United Nations, the African Union, and nongovernmental organizations, in an effort to help bring about real and lasting peace and stability in Darfur, within refugee and displaced persons camps, and along the Chadian border. It urges the parties to the conflicts to immediately conclude and respect a binding cessation of hostilities agreement, commit themselves to finding a political solution which addresses the root causes of those conflicts, and create an environment conducive to the safe and voluntary return of all displaced

persons. It also calls upon the Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative for Darfur to ensure that displaced persons are fairly and equally represented in all peace negotiations and affirms the goals of World Refugee Day and reiterates its strong commitment to protecting the millions of refugees who live without material, social, and legal protections.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hr1290ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hr1290ih.txt.pdf)

## Syria

### H.RES.1398:

Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continued gross violations of political, civil, and human rights of the Syrian people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, calling on the Government of Syria to immediately and unconditionally release prisoners of conscience and other political prisoners, and for other purposes.

This resolution finds that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic systematically violates the most basic political, civil, and human rights of its citizens and persons within its jurisdiction. The Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2007 reported significant limitations on citizens' right to change their government; instances of arbitrary or unlawful deprivation of life; increased violation of citizens' privacy rights, workers' rights, freedoms of speech, press, assembly, and association; the imprisonment of several high-profile members of the opposition party and the human rights community; violence and societal discrimination against women; and institutionalized discrimination against minorities, particularly the Kurds. It is resolved that the House of Representatives condemns and deplores the consistent pattern of gross violations of the most basic political, civil, and human rights of the Syrian people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic; and the arbitrary arrest and unjust conviction and imprisonment of prisoners of conscience. The House calls urgently for the Government of Syria to ensure that all torture and mistreatment of prisoners cease immediately; to allow political prisoners prompt and regular access to their lawyers, doctors, and families; to allow impartial international monitors unfettered access to these prisoners; to lift the state of emergency that has been imposed for over 44 years; to cease obstructing and denying human rights organizations, civil society associations, and political parties the ability to organize and operate freely; to allow individuals to exercise their fundamental political, civil, and human rights, and to engage in the full range of peaceful political and civil activities; and to cease from harassing the family members and friends of political, civil, and human rights activists and dissidents, and to allow for the safe return of exiled opposition members. Lastly, the House calls on the President and the Secretary of State to consider pursuing further actions at the United Nations to draw attention to the Government of Syria's deplorable record on human rights and the plight of Syrian political prisoners and prisoners of conscience; support, encourage, and reach out to dissidents, activists, and nonviolent democratic opposition in Syria and assist them in

their efforts to create a democratic Syria; and make political, civil, and human rights, particularly the freedom of thought and expression, the freedom of assembly and association, the freedom of movement, and the protection of persons and property under the rule of law a priority in bilateral relations with Syria.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hr1398ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hr1398ih.txt.pdf)

## Turkey

### S.Res.615:

A resolution urging the Government of Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Orthodox Christian Church.

### This resolution

recognizes that the practice of religious freedom of millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States is dependent on the religious freedom of the spiritual head of their faith, and the United States Government has expressed its emphatic support for full religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate through numerous statements by both Democratic and Republican Presidents, in letters signed by the extraordinary number of 73 of 100 United States Senators and 42 of 50 members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, and in reports of the Department of State, the Helsinki Commission, and other government agencies. The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew gathered international religious leaders soon after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and produced the first condemnation of the attacks as 'anti-religious'. He was also awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Also, the international community places particular importance on safeguarding and promoting religious freedom as is expressed in the creation of a Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations, in the 'Declaration of Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States' principle VII, paragraph I of the Helsinki Commission, and in most highly regarded international organizations. It is resolved that the Senate expresses its view that the Government of Turkey should move expeditiously to meet the criteria set forth by the European Council in Copenhagen; calls on the European Union to focus on the elimination of all forms of discrimination in Turkey, particularly with regard to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, while continuing accession negotiations; calls on the Government of Turkey to remove an obstacle in its relations with the United States Government by taking positive steps to provide full religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and calls on the Government of Turkey to immediately recognize the right to the title of 'Ecumenical Patriarch'; grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate international recognition and ecclesiastic succession; grant the Ecumenical Patriarch the right to train clergy of all nationalities, not just Turkish nationals; and respect property rights and human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:sr615is.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:sr615is.txt.pdf)

## Vietnam

### H. Res. 665-Endorsing reforms for freedom and democracy in Vietnam

Endorsing reforms  
for freedom and democracy in Vietnam.

#### The legislation

refers to Senate Joint Resolution 168, signed into law on May 25, 1994, which urged Vietnam to restore basic human rights, release all political prisoners, abolish the single-party system, allow for all political organizations to function without governmental pressure, and announce a timetable to hold free and fair elections. The legislation specifically mentions the following religions whose spiritual leaders support the call for democracy and protection of human rights in Vietnam: Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestant religions, Hoa Hao, and Cao Dai. With the following language: the legislation cites USCIRF Whereas because of systematic, egregious, and ongoing abuses of religious freedom, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom recommends the addition of Vietnam to the countries of particular concern list. The legislation calls for drastic action to be taken in Vietnam, including but not limited to: stop the Communist Party's control in government affairs, open up the borders to foreign media, allow for the media's right to free speech regarding the government, let the National Assembly break free from the Communist Party control and organize free and fair elections. The House calls for these changes in addition to those recommended by Dr. Nguyen Dan Que, who is a leading voice for freedom in Vietnam. He announced a "9-point road map to democracy" plan in March 2005. The House urges the United States government to find a peaceful way to bring democracy to Vietnam.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hr665ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hr665ih.txt.pdf)

H.R.4223- To  
establish the Congressional-Executive Commission on the Socialist Republic of  
Vietnam

To establish the Congressional-Executive Commission on the Socialist Republic  
of Vietnam

The legislation  
establishes the Congressional Executive Commission on the Socialist Republic of  
Vietnam. With the following language,  
the legislation cites USCIRF I  
(18) A specific mechanism to address Vietnam's  
progress on human rights, the rule of law, and religious freedom issues in an  
in-depth manner, focusing on vulnerabilities and areas of particular concern  
identified by the most recent annual Department of State's Country Reports on  
Human Rights Practices for Vietnam, the Trafficking in Persons Report, and the  
annual report of the United States Commission on International Religious  
Freedom, including progress in Vietnam's Central and Northwest Highlands, would  
serve as a valuable resource to complement existing United States Government  
efforts to address these issues and inform future efforts, reinforcing and  
strengthening the outcome of these efforts. The Congressional Executive Commission  
should monitor the Socialist Republic of Vietnam protection of human rights  
such as; the right to engage in free expression, the right to assembly,  
religious freedom, the right to liberty of movement, the right to be a criminal  
defendant, the right to be free from torture,  
the protection of internationally recognized worker rights, freedom from  
incarceration, freedom from arbitrary arrest, and the right to a fair and  
public hearing. The Commission should compile and maintain  
lists of persons believed to be imprisoned, detained, or placed under house  
arrest, or tortured. Additionally, the  
Commission should monitor developments in the rule of law and encourage the  
development of programs and activities of the United States Government and  
private organizations with a view toward increasing the interchange of people  
and ideas between the United  
States and the Socialist Republic of  
Vietnam. The legislation urges coordination with USCIRF with the following language, (2) COORDINATION- The report  
required to be issued under  
paragraph (1) shall be developed in coordination with the findings of the most  
recent annual Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices  
for Vietnam, the Trafficking in Persons Report, and the annual report of the  
United States Commission on International Religious Freedom The Commission is to consist of two  
members of the House of Representatives, two members of the Senate, a representative  
from the Department of State, one representative from the Department of  
Commerce, and a representative from the Department of Labor.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h4223ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h4223ih.txt.pdf)

H.RES.1048: Condemning the detention of Dr. Nguyen Quoc  
Quan, a citizen of the United States, by the Government of Vietnam, and  
expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States

should remove permanent normal trade relations status with Vietnam unless Dr. Nguyen is released

On November 17, 2007, pro-democracy advocate Nguyen Quoc Quan was arrested by the Government of Vietnam for exercising his free speech rights, as guaranteed by Article 69 of the Constitution of Vietnam. With the following language, the legislation cites USCIRF; Whereas, despite ongoing human rights violations, on November 13, 2006, Vietnam was removed as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC), as a precondition to the extension of permanent normal trade relations to Vietnam, but against the recommendation of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom; The legislation calls for the release of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan and other political detainees and strongly condemns the ongoing human rights abuses in Vietnam. The legislation calls on the United States to re-designate Vietnam pursuant to the USCIRF recommendation with the following language a Country of Particular Concern: A) re-designate Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern, pursuant to the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, and the 2007 recommendation of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. The legislation demands that the Government of Vietnam comply with internationally recognized standards for basic freedoms and human rights.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hr1048ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hr1048ih.txt.pdf)

H.Res.506-Human  
Rights and Trade

Condemning ongoing human rights abuses in Vietnam, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should remove permanent normal trade relations status with Vietnam unless all political and religious prisoners are released and significant and immediate human rights reforms are made by the Government of Vietnam.

The legislation calls for the United States to cease permanent normal trade relations status with Vietnam unless all political and religious prisoners are released and significant and immediate human rights reforms are made by the Government of Vietnam. This legislation expresses concern for the indigenous Degar Montagnard people who have suffered decades of persecution by the Vietnamese government for practicing Christianity or standing up for their human rights. The legislation states that Vietnam

was removed as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC), as a precondition to the extension of permanent normal trade relations to Vietnam, against the recommendation of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. With the following language the legislation cites USCIRF: Whereas, despite ongoing human rights violations, on November 13, 2006, Vietnam was removed as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC), as a precondition to the extension of permanent normal trade relations to Vietnam, but against the recommendation of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom; The bill further cites USCIRF with the following language: Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom's 2007 Annual Report states, '[S]ince [Vietnam] joined the World Trade Organization (WTO), the government of Vietnam has initiated a crackdown on human rights defenders and advocates for the freedoms of speech, association, and assembly, including many religious leaders who previously were the leading advocates for religious freedom in Vietnam'; and

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hr506ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:hr506ih.txt.pdf)

## H.R. 3096-Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007

To promote freedom  
and democracy in Vietnam

The legislation prohibits U.S. non-humanitarian assistance as of FY2008 to the government of Vietnam unless the President certifies to Congress that: (1) the government of Vietnam has made substantial progress respecting the release of political and religious prisoners, respecting religious freedoms and the rights of minorities, and respecting to access to U.S. refugee programs; and (2) neither any government of Vietnam official nor entity was complicit in a severe form of trafficking in persons (or the government of Vietnam took appropriate steps to end such complicity). Additionally, the legislation declares it is U.S. policy: (1) to take such measures as are necessary to overcome the jamming of Radio Free Asia by the government of Vietnam; and (2) that educational and cultural exchange programs with Vietnam should promote progress toward freedom and democracy. Furthermore, this legislation states that it is U.S. policy to offer refugee resettlement to Vietnam nationals (including members of the Montagnard ethnic minority groups) who are eligible for the Humanitarian Resettlement program, the Orderly Departure program, the Resettlement Opportunities for Vietnamese Returnees program, the American Homecoming Act of 1988, or any other U.S. refugee program, and who were deemed ineligible for reasons of administrative error or certain circumstances beyond their control. Finally, with the following language, the legislation cites USCIRF: (b) Contacts With Other Organizations- In preparing the report under subsection (a), the



Secretary shall, as appropriate, seek out and maintain contacts with nongovernmental organizations and human rights advocates (including Vietnamese-Americans and human rights advocates in Vietnam), including receiving reports and updates from such organizations and evaluating such reports. The Secretary shall also seek to consult with the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom for appropriate sections of the report.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h3096ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h3096ih.txt.pdf)

## Appropriations

H.R. 2764 - FY 2008 State and Foreign  
Operations Appropriations

Making  
appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related  
programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

From the House Report:

"The Committee commends the Commission  
on its efforts to promote international religious freedom in consultation with  
the Department of State, independent human rights groups, and other  
non-governmental organizations, religious leaders, academics, policy experts,  
the Intelligence Community, and government agencies.

The Commission, established pursuant to  
the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, conducts independent reviews  
and reporting of facts and circumstances of violations of religious freedom  
abroad and recommends options for United States policies with respect to

foreign countries engaging in or tolerating violations of religious freedom.

The Committee commends the Commission for its work related to Saudi Arabia and urges the Commission to closely monitor and report on steps taken by the Saudi Government to implement the religious freedom reforms announced by the Department of State in July, 2006 following bilateral discussions between the two countries."

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h2764enr.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h2764enr.txt.pdf)

H.R.1591- Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes

The legislation makes emergency supplemental funds available for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007. The legislation mentions USCIRF with the following language: For an additional amount for 'Diplomatic and Consular Programs', \$870,658,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, of which \$96,500,000 for World Wide Security Upgrades is available until expended: Provided, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not more than \$20,000,000 shall be made available for public diplomacy programs: Provided further, That prior to the obligation of funds pursuant to the previous proviso, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations describing a comprehensive public diplomacy strategy, with goals and expected results, for fiscal years 2007 and 2008: Provided further, That of the amount available under this heading, \$258,000 shall be transferred to, and merged with, funds available in fiscal year 2007 for expenses for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Provided further, That 20 percent of the amount available for Iraq operations shall not be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations receive and approve a detailed plan for expenditure, prepared by the Secretary of State, and submitted within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That within 15 days of enactment of this Act, the Office of Management and Budget shall apportion \$15,000,000 from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by chapter 8 of title II of division B of Public Law 109-148 under the heading 'Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service' for emergency evacuations: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading for Iraq, not to exceed \$20,000,000 may be transferred to, and merged with, funds in the 'Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service' appropriations account, to be available only for terrorism rewards.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h1591enr.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h1591enr.txt.pdf)

Legislation  
Referencing USCIRF Recommendations

H. R. 982- Advance Democracy Act

Advance Democratic  
Values, Address Non-democratic Countries, and Enhance Democracy Act of 2007

This legislation seeks to establish within the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State an office that shall both work to facilitate the transition to democracy in non democratic countries, as determined by the Secretary, as well as to promote and strengthen the development of democracy in foreign countries where a transition to democracy is in its early stages. The office will also assist nongovernmental organizations, individuals and movements that are committed to the peaceful promotion of democracy and to fundamental rights and freedoms. Furthermore, this legislation expresses the sense of Congress that the promotion of democracy in foreign countries would be best achieved by an Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor who would help establish a Democracy Fellowship Program within the Department of State. Moreover, an internet site established and maintained by the Assistant Secretary that contains information concerning the narratives and histories of significant democratic movements in foreign countries, narratives relating to the establishment of and respect for fundamental freedoms and major human rights reports by the U.S. Government should, according to this legislation, be actualized. Additionally, Chiefs of missions in non democratic or democratic transition countries should, according to this legislation, develop program planning and material support to nongovernmental organizations and individuals that commit to such values as issuing public condemnation of severe violations of internationally recognized human rights and violations of religious freedom, political repression and government tolerated or condoned trafficking in persons. This legislation also suggests that the content of training for Foreign Service officers should include materials regarding the protection of internationally recognized human rights. Also, this legislation specifies that The Director of the National Foreign Affairs Training Center of the Foreign Service Institute of the Department of State shall consult with nongovernmental organizations dedicated to the protection and promotion of such rights, as well as with the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Finally, Congress finds that democracy assistance can include the promotion of the rule of law and improving the independence of the media and judiciary.

The legislation expresses the sense of Congress that the Secretary and the Administrator of USAID should, in consultation with appropriate congressional committees, develop guidelines and other acquisition mechanisms for diplomatic and consular missions in order to actualize democracy assistance programs.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h982rh.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h982rh.txt.pdf)

## H.R. 1645-STRIVE ACT

Security Through  
Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy Act of 2007 (STRIVE Act)

This legislation addresses the larger political debate over immigration reform; however it references several USCIRF recommendations from its 2005 Study on Asylum Seekers in Expedited Removal. First, the legislation requires the establishment of quality assurance procedures to ensure the accuracy and verifiability of signed or sworn statements taken by employees exercising expedited removal authority. Additionally, the legislation states that the quality assurance procedures established shall include taped interviews. Second, the legislation requires that a custody decision shall be made in writing and served upon the alien within 72 hours of detention and within 72 hours of a positive credible fear determination. Third, the legislation requires that all detained aliens in immigration and asylum proceedings receive legal orientation through a program administered and implemented by the Executive Office of Immigration Review of the DOJ. Fourth, the legislation directs the USCIS to expand its public-private partnerships practice that facilitates pro bono counseling and legal assistance for asylum seekers awaiting a credible fear of persecution interview. Fifth, the legislation directs the promulgation of new standards or the modification of existing standards to improve conditions of detention for non-criminal detainees, and the legislation also endorses the construction and use of secure but less restrictive detention facilities for non-criminal/non-violent detainees.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h1645ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h1645ih.txt.pdf)

## H. R. 2265-Responsibility to Iraqi Refugees

## Act

To provide certain immigrant status for certain Iraqis, to assist Iraqi refugees, and for other purposes.

USCIRF consulted heavily on the drafting of this legislation, which contains many of the Commission's recommendations. This legislation establishes in country processing facilities for those wishing to seek access to the US refugee program. The legislation establishes a Special Coordinator for Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons to be based at the US Embassy in Baghdad. This individual would be responsible for the development and implementation of appropriate policies and programs concerning Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons. This legislation identifies groups which are to be considered Priority 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern under the refugee resettlement system and those include religious communities of antiquity and others who are subject to violence and intimidations. Finally, this legislation authorizes additional funding to be directed to the Departments of State, Justice and Homeland Security as well as UNHCR in order to carry out its requirements.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h2265ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h2265ih.txt.pdf)

-